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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q87625

Takehiro MIWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/532,605

Group Art Unit: 1651

Confirmation No.: 9927

Examiner: Lora Elizabeth Barnhart

Filed: August 18, 2005

For: METHOD FOR DIGESTING PROTEINS HIGHLY RESISTANT TO DENATURATION
AND DEGRADATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT **UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of the listed document is submitted herewith, together with a copy of a Supplementary Partial European Search Report and Annex for counterpart European Application No. EP 03 75 8896 wherein the listed documents were cited.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and therefore no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/532,605

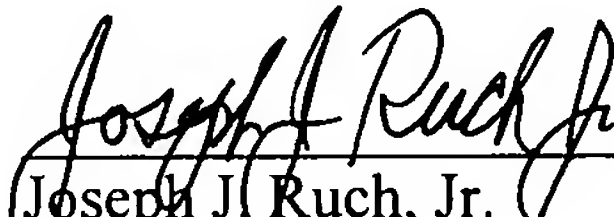
Attorney Docket No.: Q87625

It is noted that documents WO 98/30682 and WO 02/093082 cited in the Supplementary Partial European Search Report of the counterpart European patent application were previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 25, 2005, and thus are not being cited again.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 10, 2007

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

Complete if Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Application Number	10/532,605
Confirmation Number	9927
Filing Date	August 18, 2005
First Named Inventor	Takehiro MIWA
Art Unit	1651
Examiner Name	Lora Elizabeth Barnhart
Attorney Docket Number	Q87625

Sheet

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of

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		Lin et al, "NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE AND EXPRESSION OF KERA, THE GENE ENCODING A KEARTINOLYTIC PROTEASE OF BACILLUS LICHENIFORMIS PWD-1", Applied and Environmental Microbiology, Washington, D.C., US, vol. 61, no. 4, April 1995(1995-04), pages 1469-1474, XP002042752	
		Yoshioka et al, "CHARACTERIZATION OF A PROTEOLYTIC ENZYME DERIVED FROM A BACILLUS STRAIN THAT EFFECTIVELY DEGRADES PRION PROTEIN", Journal of Applied Microbiology Feb. 2007, vol. 102, no. February 2007 (2007-02), pages 509-515, XP002422549	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.